

Jesus our King and Priest

Welcome everyone... Great to be worshipping with you all this morning. For those of you who haven't been with us the past few weeks, we have been making our way through the gospel of Luke... and today... we find ourselves at one of those places in the Bible... where many of us just skip over or stop reading altogether! Any guesses to what it might be? Its the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

And so, would you all turn with me in your Bibles to Luke 3:21-ff... That's right we are going to read through the entire genealogy together...

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the son of Seth, the son of Adam,
the son of God.

Luke 4:1 AND JESUS.

Now I am going to stop here and point out some things worth noticing... Because this genealogy isn't meant to be BORING. There is something EPIC going on here... But before I begin... how many people in the room here are using the ESV Bibles? A couple... I assume the majority of you read from the NIV. Both are legit translations... But one of the main reasons I use the ESV - and strongly recommend using the ESV is because the NIV leaves out many many conjunctions FOR the sake of readability... not to say that the ESV isn't readable... But in any case... the NIV takes out the AND in the beginning of chapter 4... well because basic english grammar dictates that you shouldn't start a sentence with AND. The only thing is... the Bible was written in GREEK - and not English... and so... once you start taking CONJUNCTIONS out, a lot of the times, what happens is - you fail to see what otherwise would be pretty obvious...

I mean... SURELY... the divinely inspired author Luke had a purpose in inserting the genealogy HERE of all places... Matthew — he puts the genealogy right smack in the beginning of the gospel... And when he records the account of Jesus' baptism... and the Holy Spirit descending upon Him... it transitions very smoothly to the Holy Spirit leading Jesus into the wilderness...

But WHY does LUKE insert the genealogy here? Was Matthew just a better writer? No - if anything, Luke was the better writer... in fact, he says in the very beginning of the gospel that his gospel is AN ORDERLY ACCOUNT!

So what is Luke trying to tell us?

Lets pick it up from Luke 3:23 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli.... drop down to verse **38** the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

4:1- AND JESUS!

Do you see it? Luke comparing and contrasting Adam and JESUS. People thought Jesus was the son of Joseph... but in truth, Jesus was the TRUE Son of God.

You see, Adam was the son of God in the sense that he was the first man created in His image, but JESUS IS the ETERNAL SON who is the exact representation of God. And SO.. Our KING.. After being baptized... full of the Holy Spirit... is on a mission! He sets out to do what ADAM could not! What we commonly summarize as the temptation of Jesus is in reality our King going to war!

You would be missing the main point the text if you were to read this as a manual on how to fight temptation merely... The main point of this text is to show the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the evil one!

4:1 - And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness **2** for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. **3** The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." **4** And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'"

I find it very striking that the fate of mankind - BOTH IN GENESIS and in the GOSPELS - played out over PALATES... the temptation in the garden and IN the wilderness STARTED WITH the APPETITE.. our fall from grace could have involved murder,, It could have involved rape or incest or any other wicked act... but instead, the fate of mankind was bound up with a piece of fruit... and here... a piece of BREAD.

That says something about our powerful inclination to make an IDOL out of food... But that's a sermon for another day... For now...NOTICE - how Jesus IS GREATER than Adam!

ADAM was tempted INSIDE the garden.... and where is Jesus? He is in the WILDERNESS...

AND ADAM.. He was NOT TIRED... nor was he HUNGRY when he was tempted... BUT Adam failed... and through his sin, the garden of God was turned into a wilderness ... YET JESUS.... who was BOTH TIRED AND HUNGRY... He does not fail! But on the contrary, His mission is to restore the wilderness into the garden where man and God can once again fellowship...

This is precisely WHY Jesus does not transform rocks into bread for Him to eat... In other places, Jesus performs miracles in order to feed the crowds... SO ITS NOT LIKE IT IS A SIN TO FEED PEOPLE MIRACULOUSLY - but here - Jesus REFUSES to EAT. And this is in order to show that Jesus is GREATER than Adam. Satan - you might have been able to trick Adam - but you have NOTHING on me. Your time is DONE!

And Satan... Satan.. he knew this.. He knew that the one who had come into the world was INFINITELY greater than Adam...

And that is the reason why demonic activity was highly concentrated around the time of Jesus' ministry.. It is because Satan knew that his time was up... Jesus had already won! The rest of the times we read of demonic activity in the gospels is much like how zombies spasm before they die...

And so... my aim of this message is two-fold... First... FIND COURAGE as you see the victorious King - be ENCOURAGED... Be BOLD! Jesus has won! Satan is no match for Jesus... So as you live throughout the week, when you are tempted and you feel small.. and the world and the enemy and your problems seem BIG - look to Jesus - who has given us the victory! And LIVE BOLDLY for His kingdom.

Secondly... be comforted... Be comforted... In all your affliction and temptations... Be comforted... Because you see.. Jesus didn't enter the wilderness just as our King... he also entered the wilderness as our high priest.

If you remember, we read how Jesus started his ministry around the age of 30... Well, that was the age when priests began serving in office... And so... the first act

that Jesus does as our High Priest is to go into the wilderness.. knowing full well what awaited Him there..

A couple texts in Hebrews help shed light onto why Jesus did this.

Hebrews 2:17-ff.

17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

And Hebrews 4:15-ff...

Hebrews 4:15-ff..

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Do you see it? We have a merciful high priest who is compassionate and able to relate with us! You would think that a KING would be ABOVE THAT. That he would be clothed in fine clothes and dwelling in palaces... But NO! As we have seen the past few weeks - our KING is a HUMBLE king. He comes to us without a crown! He comes to us POOR...

What does this mean for us? Hebrews 2:18 -For because Jesus Himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted...

Jesus KNOWS what it is like to be tempted! He KNOWS the pain that you are going through! So imagine this... The King of all the universe is able to RELATE with YOU! And if that doesn't blow your mind - let me put it like this.... Before the immensity and infinity and eternality of God ... you and I are no bigger than ants!

Now imagine... that you are God... and that the ants that you see roaming represent humanity.... Does it make sense that you would become LIKE AN ANT - SO THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO RELATE WITH THEM? AND THEY TO YOU? No! It doesn't? That is why the gospel is so SCANDALOUS! GOD DID THAT!

Let no one therefore say - God doesn't understand.. God doesn't know the pain I'm going through... No... He knows... He knows it better than you... He knows the pain of betrayal.. He knows the pain of being spit upon.. He knows the pain of being cursed and being called names.. He knows the pain of being abandoned and He knows what it is to be hungry... and naked... He knows what it is like to be emotionally abused... and what it feels like to lose EVERYTHING! LITERALLY.

The only difference is... we SIN.... WE DESERVE IT! AND WE do NOT have victory OVER SIN! But as Hebrews 4:15 writes - Jesus, who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin - Jesus was SINLESS. He HAS COMPLETE victory over Satan and sin!

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THEREFORE... Hebrew 4:16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Look it. He isn't just able to RELATE WITH YOU... He is able to HELP YOU! If all that God could do was relate with us.. that wouldn't be much help. .. I mean, we can relate with each other.. .BUT this is GOD- He can HELP you overcome the trials and temptations.. He can give you grace to help you through the PAIN and broken of life...

The Bible says that God is the GOD OF ALL COMFORT... But if that was all that God could do for us - comfort... that wouldn't be good news would it... But PRAISE be to God that He IS POWERFUL to HELP US! That HE IS MIGHTY TO SAVE! And how blessed we are as a church to see this play out within our midst... How a family going through a GREAT season of difficulty isn't just getting by being comforted.... BUT THEY ARE FINDING SUPERNATURAL STRENGTH to LOOK OUTWARDS TO THE NEEDS OF OTHERS WHEN THEY THEMSELVES ARE BEING AFFLICTED!

How can THIS BE? It is because we have a KING - the true Son of God - who leads us into victory and gives us BOLDNESS to face the day! And a merciful high priest who comforts us in all our affliction and helps us get back up when we fall..

And so... now would normally be the time where I end the sermon by praying.. but today - in light of the message that was preached.. I think that it is fitting we all stand and respond by singing a song... Now, this is a song that I have been wanting to sing at church for a while now... This song has personally touched me DEEPLY... and it is my prayer that as you sing this song - your heart will also be touched by the truth we have been hearing about all morning. If the SERMON wasn't enough to stir something up in your heart... then I pray that this song will!